

FOSATU

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As elections creep nearer FOSATU goes door to door urging people not to vote

THOUSANDS of homes in the Eastern Cape have been visited by FOSATU organisers and shop stewards as the federation steps up its campaign to urge so-called coloured and Indian workers to not vote on August 22 and 28.

Over the past few weeks in Port Elizabeth alone, the campaign has covered about 2 000 homes.

Regional secretary, Les Kettleidas said they had picked out four townships which they felt would be key areas in the coming elections.

These were Chatty, Arcadia, Windvogel and Schauder townships.

FOSATU, assisted by other sympathetic people, have been spending every Sunday morning since June 28 going from door to door.

'We take pamphlets with us and then go from house to house explaining to people why we feel they should not vote,' Brother Kettleidas said.

And the weather does not seem to matter to these campaigners as FOSATU Worker News found out when we accompanied them on their visit to Windvogel township - it was pouring with rain.

On the whole the majority of the people visited at Windvogel were sympathetic to the Don't Vote call.

One worker asked what organisation we had come from and when we told him, he said, 'Good. I'll listen to you. FOSATU doesn't mess us around.'

Brother Kettleidas said the door to door campaign had been very important as this way they had been able to reach organised and non-organised workers.

A similar door to door campaign has been carried out in the Uitenhage townships.

The Eastern Cape region has also widely distributed FOSATU pamphlets in the factories and has organised a number of general meetings to discuss the elections.

Don't Vote stickers will be distributed in the factories on the last few days before August 22.

Meanwhile, in the Western Cape, all the independent unions, together with other progressive organisations, organised a mass rally which was held on August 6.

Close on 6 000 workers bused in to the Fun City Sport Stadium in Athlone to discuss the new constitution.

Speaking at the rally, Natie Gantana, treasurer of FOSATU, said workers had to organise themselves into effective organisations to achieve their ideals.

He said, 'We see the political role to be played by workers in the struggle as very important.'

'No-one can further the



NAAWU's Cox Xabela explains to a Windvogel resident why she shouldn't vote

interests of the workers but themselves,' he added.

Towards the end of the meeting, a resolution was adopted rejecting the 'new deal' and calling on voters

to boycott the elections.

'On the eve of apartheid dummy elections forced upon us, we as one people, as oppressed workers, say we want to have nothing

to do with this constitution, it said.

The Western Cape region has also distributed pamphlets and stickers to organised factories.

DON'T VOTE